



Life's a Hoot!



*The International Owl Collectors' Club,
54 Tiverton Road, Edgware, Middlesex, HA8 6BE, England.*

Greetings and welcome to issue ten. We made it to an issue in double figures! Membership is still fairly static at just under 200, due to quite a few drop-outs. I hope I'm not doing something wrong but on the other hand I get a lot of kind letters with renewal cheques so I know some of you like it! Thank you all for the encouragement. Due to Mike Hamilton helping us by putting all the out-of-Britain post through his company mail room (which allows us to benefit from their cheaper rates) the membership fees can stay at their current rates despite a rise in the paper and copying costs. Thanks Mike!

Unfortunately, we still seem to be having other postal troubles, with letters etc. both to and from me getting lost or very delayed. Please bear with me, and if you think something might have gone missing (because you asked for something, are owed something or just expected a reply you never got) please write again.

As there is now a magazine for owl lovers, OWLS, which comes out about the same time as this newsletter I'm thinking of moving this to one month later, so that the next issue would be at the beginning of March instead of the beginning of February. You would of course still get four issues for the 'year' membership. I know you don't all get OWLS, but it would spread the owly fun for those who do. OWLS was originally intended to come out a month earlier, but delays made it clash with us and since we are less dependent on printers etc. I think it would be kind of us to move. What do you think?

A few weeks ago Egbert and Gaby Blok from Holland came to see me, bringing photos of their collection, and then Pat and Alan Spargo came to pick us all up and take us to their home to see Pat's collection. It was a lovely day! We found both owls that were unique to each collection and ones that we had in common. Pat's collection of jewellery was particularly impressive and I spent at least an hour laying them out on a quilt so that I could take photos! They came out well but too small to print here.

Now read on.

Elise

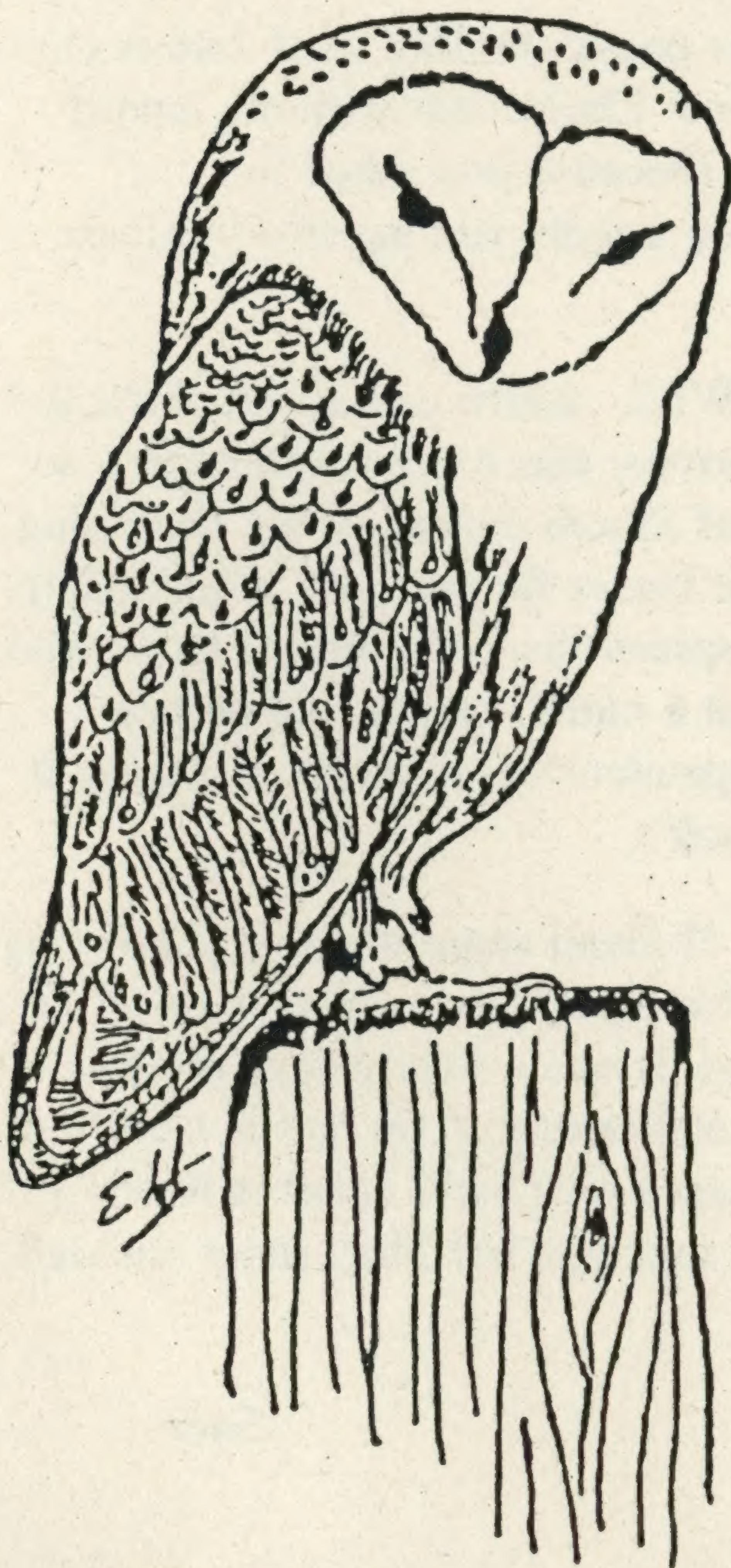
Charity Corner

The Raptor Centre is the largest sanctuary for Birds of Prey in the South East of England and the largest single-handed rescue service for these birds in the country. It is a non profit making charity, based within the grounds of Chilham Castle by courtesy of Lady Chilham, the owner, and run by Eddie and Diane Hare.

The Hares want to help raptors in as many ways as possible, and they are making a concentrated effort in captive breeding. Often this has involved trying to breed from disabled birds that have come into their care through the rescue service. The project has become highly successful and has allowed them to make successful releases. They feel that the key to their success is that they cater to the needs of the birds, not the visitors. The breeding aviaries are never open to view, to ensure the birds have the peace and quiet they need.

Visitors to the centre can see trained birds (many bred on site) on display at the Weathering Ground. Here they sit in pleasant surroundings so that you can take photographs - no netting in the way! During the afternoons there are flying displays (an eagle owl in flight is VERY impressive). The birds are at their best flying free and of course they could fly away but choose not to.

You can also sponsor a bird for a year, for £100. You can pay this in one, two or four evenly spaced installments. As a reminder of your sponsorship you get a beautiful certificate with a photograph of 'your' bird encapsulated in plastic. You can visit 'your' bird, along with all the others, as often as you like during the year. For more information, or a list of birds available for sponsorship, call (England) 0227 730368 or write to The Raptor Centre, North Lodge, Chilham, Nr Canterbury, Kent, CT4 8DB, England.



Finally, if you would like to spend a full day with the birds there is the offer of The Hawk Experience, where you meet all the birds (including new chicks at the right time of year) and then are shown how to hold a bird correctly and go for a countryside walk with them. Later in the afternoon you can take charge of a bird and fly it yourself. I'm not sure if you can choose an owl instead of a hawk, or of the price of the day, so if you are interested do contact the centre at the address/phone number above. A Hawk Experience can be



given as a gift, with a card provided that allows the holder to book a day at their convenience within the next six months.

This is one of our members, Mike Hamilton, at the centre, holding a European Eagle Owl.

On another Charity topic, The World Owl Trust (previously called BOBAS) at Muncaster Castle, Ravenglass, Cumbria, CA18 1RQ, England, have some interesting items for sale to raise money for their work. There are T-shirts with a five-owl logo

for £10.95 + £1 p&p and a number of items with the Trust's logo (as shown in the bottom right corner of this page) - a T-shirt for £9.95 + £1 p&p, a keyring with a mini-light or hipster fob for £1.50 including p&p, and a car sticker for 50p + a stamped addressed envelope. Call (England) 0229 717393 for more information.

Another good way to buy owls and ensure that your money is going to a good cause is to buy from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Their latest catalogue includes Short-eared Owl Christmas cards at £2.60 for 10, a wooden letter rack with a golden owl on the front for £ 9.99, an owl pen for £4.99, two different owl noteblocks (Snowy or Barn Owl) for £5.50 each, a blue peg bag with a white barn owl in flight for £5.99 or the same owl on a duster bag for £3.9 , a splendid sweat-shirt showing 5 owl species for £19.99, a beautiful tea-towel (good enough to hang on the wall) for £2.99, wooden owl coasters at £6.99 for a set including stand, and two china mugs, showing a barn owl and a little owl in colour, at £13.99 for the pair. Write to RSPB Sales Ltd, PO Box 54, Burton upon Trent, Staffs, DE14 3LQ, England for a catalogue.



Stamp Out Owls!

In our 'collection within a collection' series, I thought I'd tell you more about my owl rubber stamps. I now have over 530 different stamps, mostly rubber but some engraved metal and quite a lot of photopolymer, the cheaper but less effective modern rubber

substitute. Picture stamps like these are known as 'Art Stamps' and have become a big issue in crafts in recent years.

I had a number of these stamps when I started "Life's a Hoot" ten issues ago, and used them to brighten up the issues. Back then the number of copies I had to hand-stamp was far smaller!

However, I was soon looking for more owl stamps so as not to repeat the images and found a splendid company called Make Your Mark (72 Goodramgate, York YO1 2LS, England) who not only had lots of lovely stamps



(see the owl in flight on the next page) but also introduced me to an American magazine called Rubberstampmadness. I was surprised and delighted to get this huge (over 100



pages, tabloid size) magazine and soon wrote to lots of American companies to get catalogues, from which I bought lots of owls! Of course I also bought ink pads and was soon tempted towards lots of other stamps, at first mainly trees, moons and suchlike to go with the owls but later anything that took my fancy. I now have a huge collection, which I use to make cards and jewellery and to decorate my letters and envelopes. A lot of my favourite stamps come from Heindesign

Stempelspaß (Eilper Straße 76, D-58091, Hagen, Germany) and some of their newest owl stamps are shown on the previous page. The one with text says "Wise as an Owl". I have only printed some of them because my hand would drop off if I stamped them all on over 200 copies!

The two owls on the front cover are from Hobby Art (St. Nicholas Centre, St. Nicholas Way, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 1AY, England) who are a recent entry onto the 'art stamps' scene. I even managed to find several owl stamps on my recent Canadian holiday (of which more later) - the one at the top of this page is from the Prairie Book and Novelty Company, whose stamps can be purchased in the Forks Centre in Winnipeg.



Apart from just printing the image, you can colour onto the stamp to get a multi-coloured print, emboss the image using a special powder which sticks to the ink and makes a hard, raised surface when heated, impress the image into clay for jewellery, mask the image in order to put another behind it (such as an owl in a tree) and ... well, I could go on for hours. It is all good fun and I communicate with quite a few other stampers who exchange ideas and stamps with me. Oh yes, and there is also eraser carving to make your own stamps, but that's another story!

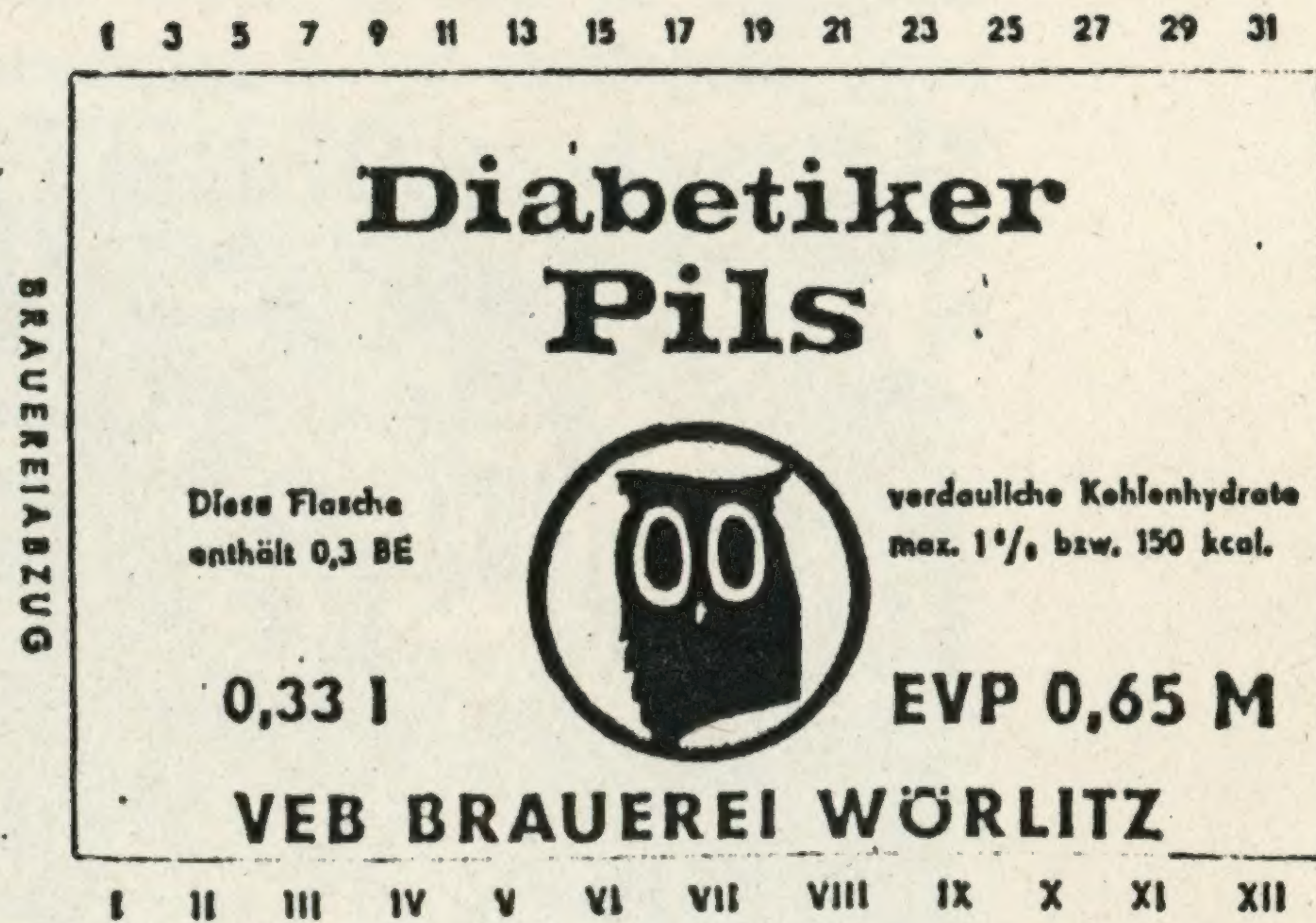
Have you got change for an Owl?

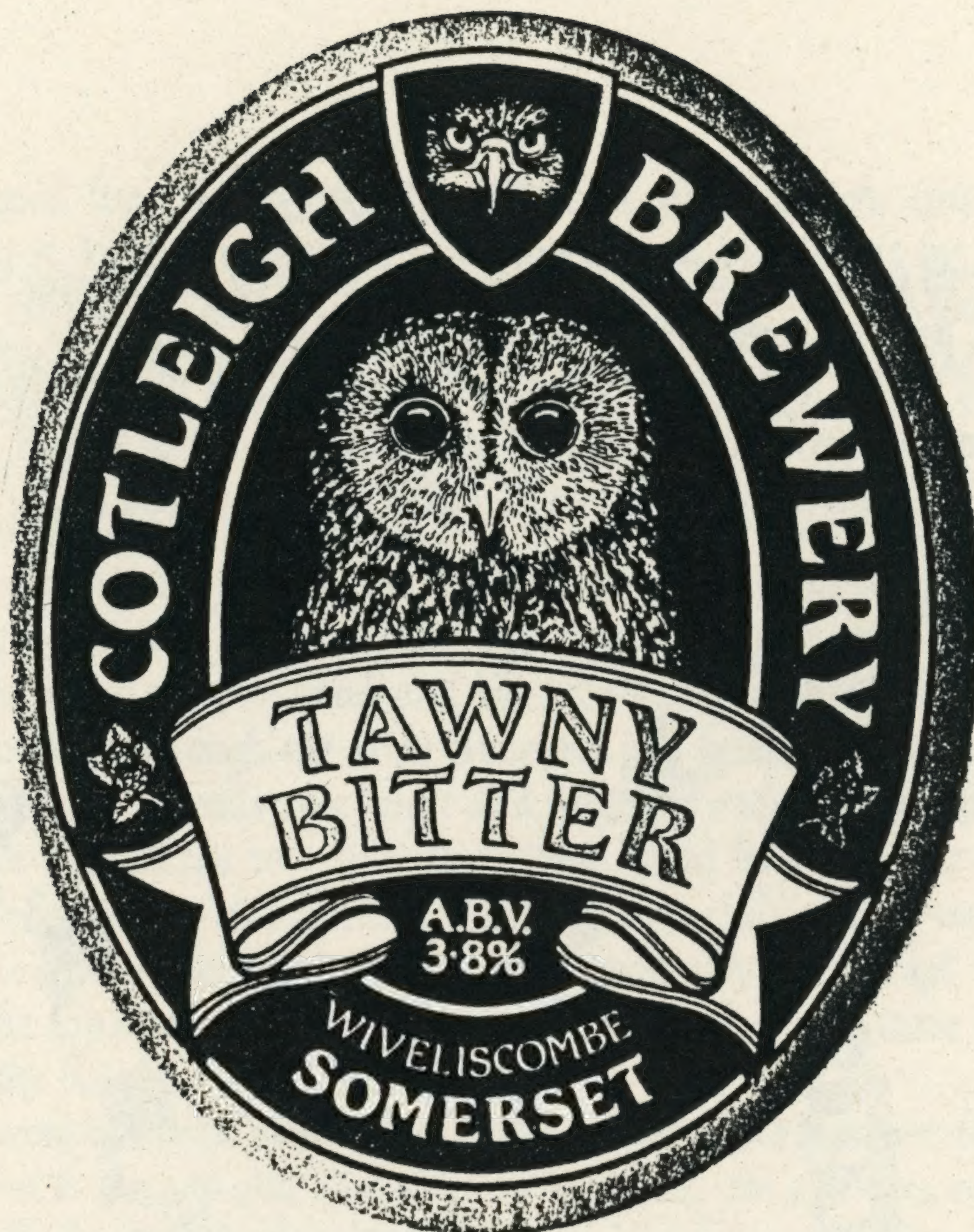
On the subject of the above, one of my "stamping" friends, Tam-Ruud Janssen, pointed out that the watermark on the Dutch 100 Guilder note is a little owl! I thought it would be impossible to show you, but Tam held it up to a window one bright day and took a photo, which I reproduce here as best as I can.



What Shall We Do With The Drunken Owl?

The owls shown on these pages are to be found on beer mats or beer bottles. Many thanks to those who sent them in. Most are shown smaller than the mats or labels to allow us to show more of them. Do we have any more drink related owls out there? Perhaps on wines, spirits or soft drinks? If so do send copies so we can have more next time.





Telephone Cards

Anne Lawrence (11 John Street, Biggenden, Queensland, Australia. 4621) has started collecting telephone cards, and would like to get some with owls on them. She is willing to buy them or trade for them. I have one British one but no spare - how about you? I hope if several turn up Anne will send us photocopies for an article.

If you are looking for something in particular or have a particular "collection within the collection" do drop us a line.

The Craft Spot

I recently put an advert in the Bead Society newsletter, asking for Owl beads, and was rewarded with a reply from a supplier called Spangles (see below). To help you get the best from their beads I've worked out this necklace and earring set - all the beads except the chips can be bought from Spangles and you could use some of their seed beads instead if you liked.



You will need:

- 9 porcelain owl beads (brown or blue), 6 metallic owl beads
- 56 6mm 'rose' beads (gold or silver colour),
- 30 4mm fossil stone beads (cream, blue or grey)
- 36 10mm fossil stone beads (to match above)
- 21 chip beads, brown or blue, or any small spacer beads
- 1 clasp, two eye pins, two ear wires, thread and two needles.

Cut yourself a good length of thread, as much as you feel you can manage without tangling it. If you need to join in more thread later do it by stitching the new thread through at least a dozen of the last beads the previous thread went through. Loop the thread in half and put one end of the necklace clasp on the loop. Thread the two ends onto your needles.

Following the picture, thread the first 22 beads (rose, 10mm fossil, repeat) onto both threads, then split them and thread the top and bottom rows separately, the top consisting of rose, 10mm fossil etc. up to the 5th rose and the bottom of (chip, 4mm fossil, rose, 4mm fossil) repeat to the 5th rose. The top needle then comes down through the porcelain owl bead and the last rose on the bottom row. The bottom needle comes up through the same porcelain owl bead and the last rose on the top row, so that the threads swap over and hold the owl bead between them. Thread the needle now at the top with one 10mm fossil bead and one rose, and the needle at the bottom with one chip, 4mm fossil, metallic owl, 4mm fossil, chip and rose. The bottom needle then goes up through a porcelain owl bead and the last rose on the top level and the top needle down through the same bead and the last rose on the bottom row, as before.

Repeat these movements until you have seven porcelain beads (six metallic beads) threaded, then finish the top and bottom rows to match the side you started on. Bring both threads through the last 22 beads and finish by attaching the other side of the clasp to a loop of one of the threads, tying it off to the other thread and hiding the knot in the last bead (use glue if necessary).

To make each earring, thread one rose, one porcelain bead and a second rose onto the eye pin, cut off excess length if necessary and make a loop to hang on the ear-wire.

To buy the beads, it would probably be best to send a large stamped addressed envelope (a large addressed envelope and a couple of international reply coupons from outside England) for the bead booklet (catalogue) as there are too many colour choices, prices etc. to show here. Spangles does ship abroad and can take American dollar cheques and other currencies if bank charges are paid. However, here are drawings of the owl beads available with prices, just to tempt you!

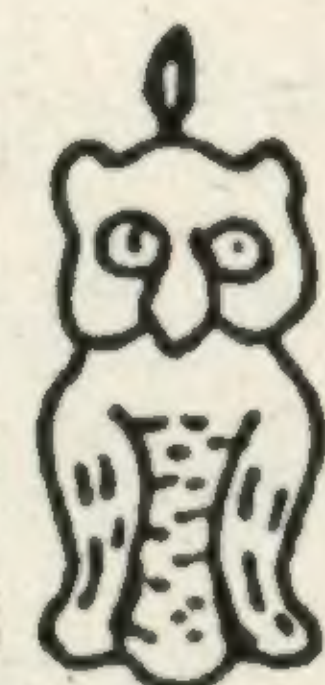


75p
Porcelain



Metallic

35p



£2.25
Coral



95p
Abalone



75p
Bone

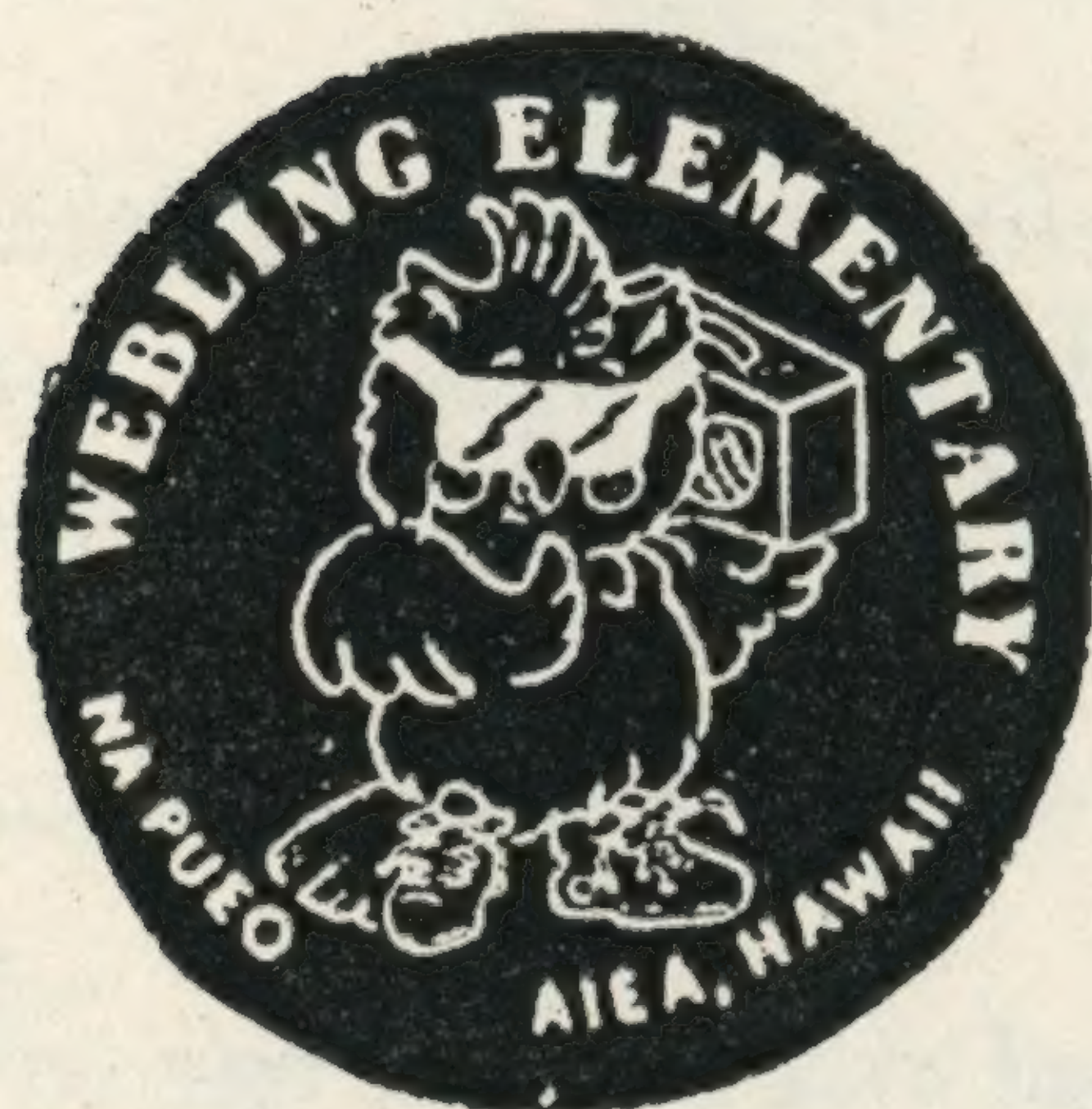
What's a Pog?

by Bobby Borden

Benjamin

Aloha from Hawaii. Here are some Owls on small, thick cardboard circles, which were all the rage here last year. Unfortunately for me, the owl pogs (as they are called) were mostly on the island of Oahu. My sister got them for me, although she thought they were a waste of money.

It seems as though the owl is a mascot to several schools there. I thought I'd share some with you. The large one is full size.



The Pueo is the Hawaiian short eared owl. It is most common on Kauai, Maui and Hawaii but is endangered on Oahu. It is active at dawn and dusk, but is sometimes seen at mid-day, most often hunting in grasslands. The ancient Hawaiians worshipped the Pueo as a god and revered it as a guardian spirit.

Does anyone have any others of these pogs? What are they for - a game? Any other unusual Owls out there? Elise.

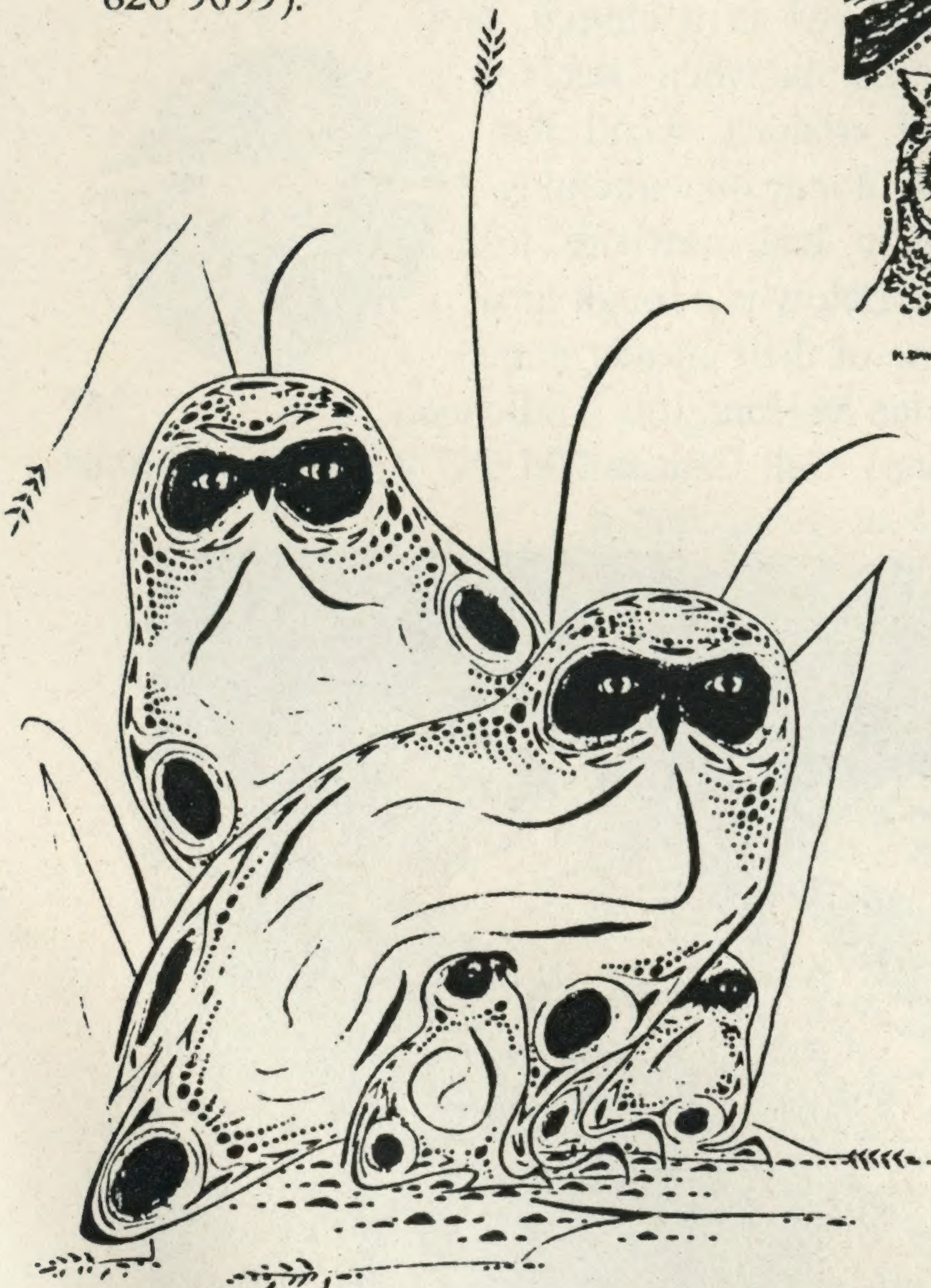
An Owl Collector in Canada



This year, I was lucky enough to go to Canada with my husband on holiday, and of course I looked out for owls. Unfortunately I didn't see any owls in the wild, but there were plenty of owly items to buy! I thought you might like to hear about some of them. All items shown are much smaller than actual size.

We started off in Vancouver, and the first shop to draw my attention was Silver Blue Traders (1165 Robson Street), mainly due to the wonderful Owl Katchina doll in the window. They

also had carved stone owls and owl earrings by Richard Shorty (Pacific Rim Arts) in an interesting style blending Native Indian designs with his own more realistic style (see earring, top right). In another shop I found some birds of prey notepaper with a matching owl pen, by Mountain Properties (Canada, 604 826 9699).



Also in Vancouver we visited the Museum of Anthropology, which held some beautiful Native American art, including some carved bone owls, and a wonderful lidded owl jug (see top of next page).

Along the way, I came across lots of owl greetings cards, my favourite of which was Snowy Owl by Eddy Cobiness, an Ojibwa Native Artist (see left). These cards and many other lovely owl items can be purchased from The Eyrie, 803A Braemar St, S.E.,



this great key-ring and nicest of all this circular pin in pewter by Cree (Box 21055, Brandon, Manitoba,

Medicine Hat, AB, Canada, T1A 0V4. Send \$1 for a catalogue (\$2 from outside North America). Later in the holiday, when we had moved on to Winnipeg, I found the most owl-intensive shop of all, The Fort Whyte Nature Company, on the top floor of the Forks Centre. They had, amongst other things, this fun brooch (pin) from the Artifacts range,



Finally, I must mention Woodlands Gallery, 2nd floor, Winnipeg Convention Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3J3, Canada, who have superb paintings and prints which they are willing to ship anywhere in the world. I fell in love with a painting of a barn owl in a church, and was very sad when I decided that I couldn't spend that much money on something I really had nowhere to hang. Below is a rough idea of one of their current items,



Young Tufts - Eagle Owls by Alan M Hunt. It is a little over 16" by 23" and costs \$215 (Canadian). Call Canada 204 947 0700 for a booklet with a colour picture of this, if you are interested.

